



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 10

MEETING	Shadow Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	12 February 2016
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Members' Scheme of Allowances
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For decision
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	To set out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a scheme of members' allowances for the new authority to take effect from 1 April 2016.
RISK ASSESSMENT	None
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	If adopted the proposed new scheme will cost some £4,000 less than the combined cost of the current Dorset Fire Authority and the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority allowance schemes. This is despite the increased membership of the new authority.
RECOMMENDATIONS	1. That members consider the scheme recommended to them by the independent panel and adopt a scheme of allowances for 2016/17.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	The existing schemes of allowances of the Dorset Fire Authority and the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority and the Shadow scheme.
APPENDICES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A table setting out a comparison of the existing scheme amounts, the Shadow scheme and the proposed new scheme amounts.</li> <li>2. Draft Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority Members' Allowances Scheme 2016/17.</li> </ol>

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	Jonathan Mair j.e.mair@dorsetcc.gov.uk 01305 224181
--	---

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The payment of allowances to elected members of local authorities, including fire and rescue authorities is governed by the Local Government (Members' Allowances England) Regulations 2003.
- 1.2 At their meeting in June 2015 the Shadow Authority adopted a scheme of allowances to cover the shadow period until 1 April 2016. The recommendations now made by the Independent Remuneration Panel concern allowances proposed from 1 April 2016 when the new authority is operating in steady state.
- 1.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel has met twice to gather evidence and make recommendations about a proposed scheme. The Panel received background information from me about the new authority, its role, scope and scale and the governance arrangements already agreed by members. The two chairmen were interviewed as was one other member and the Chief Fire Officer. In addition all members were invited to respond to survey questions posed by the Panel.
- 1.4 The work of the independent panel has been forwarded to each of the constituent councils so that their panels each have an opportunity to comment on the recommended scheme. At the time of preparing this report comments have been received from one panel chairman who supported the recommendations in their entirety and who believed that the recommendations were the result of very thorough work. Any other comments received will be reported at the meeting.

## 2. The Proposed Scheme

- 2.1 The core of the proposed scheme is a proposed basic allowance of £3,200 payable to each elected member. The Panel gave careful consideration to arrive at this recommendation, taking account of the time commitment expected generally of members. Members will note from the table included at appendix 1 that the proposed basic allowance falls midway between the existing Wiltshire and Swindon allowance and the existing Dorset allowance.
- 2.2 Taking account of their interviews with members and with the Chief Fire Officer and taking account also of the views of the 19 members who responded to the survey the Panel had made recommendations about the payment of special responsibility allowances (SRAs) to those undertaking particularly significant roles. Taking as their starting point the basic allowance the Panel recommend the following SRAs:

Chairman of the Authority (Basic Allowance x 3)	£9,600
Vice-Chairman of the Authority (Basic Allowance x 1.5)	£4,800
Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee (Basic Allowance x 1)	£3,200
Chairman of Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees (4 x Committee Chairmen)	£1,600

- 2.3 In arriving at these recommendations the Panel felt that there was a particular need to recognise the role of Authority Vice Chairman. Initially 1 x basic allowance had been proposed but on reflection the Panel concluded that for such a large combined fire authority there would be a very significant role and time commitment in supporting the Chairman. Particular thought was also given to the chairmanship of each of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees. The Panel felt that there was an important role both at panel meetings and beyond formal meetings in working locally on behalf of the Authority with our partners.
- 2.4 The Panel considered but decided not to recommend any SRAs for the following roles or post holders:
- Leaders of political groups
  - Member champions
  - Vice chairmen of committees
- 2.5 In line with current schemes the Panel recommend that no member should receive more than one SRA. Other recommendations concern travelling and subsistence allowances and a dependent carers' allowance. These other recommendations mirror existing arrangements.
- 2.6 Appendix 2 illustrates what the member allowances scheme for 2016/17 will look like if agreed by the Shadow Authority.